

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, May 25, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Trish Mandewo, Chair
Councillor Steve Kim, Vice Chair
Zorica Andjelic
Paul Choi
Leslie Courchesne, Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce
Mohammad Darwish
Emma Friess
Alice Hale
JJ Lee
Mathew Sebastiani
Catherine Williams, Douglas College Coquitlam Campus

REGRETS: Marko Dekovic
Lilian Kan
Marcelo Machado

ALSO PRESENT: David Bell, Land Economics Team Lead, Urban Systems Ltd.
Adam Mattinson, Consultant, Hemson Consulting Ltd.

STAFF: Andre Isakov, Manager Economic Development
Eric Kalnins, Tourism Manager
Julie Hunter, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair reminded Committee members of Quorum, the requirement to RSVP to meeting invitations and to advise the Committee in advance if they need to leave a meeting early.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, March 30, 2022

The Minutes of the Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS**2. Economic Development Strategy Workshop**

The Manager Economic Development and the Project Consultants utilized an on-screen presentation entitled “Economic Development Strategy (EDS) Workshop” and referred to slides titled as follows:

- Agenda
- Introductions
- Background
- Workshop Objectives
- Planning Principles
- Framework: What is the Recipe for Success?
- Components
- Previous Identified Values
- Emerging Vision
- Emerging Themes / Areas of Focus
- Coquitlam in Context
- Vision for Strong Foundation
- Potential Goals / Strategies to Explore
- Examples of Innovation
- When Considering Examples
- The Evolution of Industrial
- Establishing a Suburban Office Node
- Growing Local Commercial Identity
- Establishing a Cultural & Economic Hub
- Workshop Discussion
- Questions to Discuss
- Next Steps
- Thank You

The Committee participated in the Workshop and discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Features that people are seeking when looking for office space, including accessibility, nature and green space, outdoor recreation, connectivity via fiber optics, proximity to retail, mixed zoning for live/work space, and close proximity to their residences
- The demand for office space in Coquitlam
- The suggestion that the Langford Station Cultural District and the live/work spaces in Langley could be considered as a model for local retail incubator
- The desire to meet the needs of a range of different sized businesses and employment needs
- The lack of affordable work spaces, particularly for start-up businesses
- The desire to focus on place-making with social, cultural and natural attractions
- The lack of commercial space in the Tri-Cities
- The desire to facilitate opportunities for start-up businesses
- Shared working spaces and shared infrastructure, such as for manufacturing or kitchens
- The desire to facilitate the increase in businesses that do not require office space
- Shifting trends and demographics
- The belief that housing is a major challenge in building the economy and attracting staff

- The desire to prioritize and build on the City’s existing strengths
- How having distinct neighbourhoods across the City is beneficial
- The concern that residents who grew up in Coquitlam are no longer able to afford to live in the City
- Transportation challenges
- The growing trend in people working out of storage units
- Coquitlam’s advantage due in its central location in the lower mainland
- The desire to make it attractive for young families to live and work in Coquitlam
- The desire for business incubator spaces and business accelerator spaces with shared amenities and common areas
- The role that flexible zoning could play in facilitating work spaces and office spaces as well as mixed manufacturing and retail
- The rise in employers providing employee housing
- The desire to assist residents who have secondary businesses
- The advantage Coquitlam enjoys as a result of the many cultural communities in the City
- The desire to provide opportunities in Coquitlam for graduates of Douglas College and Simon Fraser University
- The importance of shared prosperity
- Support for the expansion of Skytrain to communities further east and increased public transit service for Coquitlam residents
- The desire to build on the local entertainment scene to make it attractive for younger people to live and work in the City
- The importance of making spaces available for cooling centres or extreme weather shelters
- The desire to attract new business sectors that will grow in the future
- The importance of preserving and enhancing natural green spaces to creating a livable city
- The opportunity to use Coquitlam’s green spaces as anchors in the community around which economic activity could flourish
- The belief that a responsible future and a strong economy must include those from all communities in the City and that this should be built into the EDS
- The importance of supporting the City’s most vulnerable citizens, providing supportive housing, and providing supports for the homeless population
- The desire that all Coquitlam residents have opportunities, share in the prosperity, and are supported and included

The Chair thanked committee members for their valuable contributions during the workshop.

3. Emerging Issues

The following emerging issues were identified:

- Upcoming opportunities for businesses to hire Douglas College business interns as well as co-op students
- Project Greenlight has launched and proposals are encouraged
- Coquitlam Business E-News – register on the City website
- Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce Lunch With Leaders June 2, 2022 – guest speaker Ed Hall, Chief of kwikwəłəm Kwikwetlem First Nation

- Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce Savour the Summer campaign

NEXT MEETING DATE – Wednesday, July 27, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

_____ CHAIR

Julie Hunter
Committee Clerk